

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9170

S E C R E T CAIRO 0438

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MARR SA EG US

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REF: A. STATE 007676 (RPT JIDDA 0240), B. STATE 003251.

1. IN LIGHT REFTTEL B, NO RPT NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD HERE WITH GOE ON TERMINATION OF EGYPTIAN F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA. JUDGING FROM REFTTEL A, NONE OF THE PROMISED ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. VP MOBAREK IS, OF COURSE, IN ADDIS IN CONNECTION WITH OAU MEETING AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF HE ISSUED PROMISED INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE.

2. I SUSPECT THAT BOTH THE SAUDI AND EGYPTIANS ARE DELIBERATELY DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON THIS MATTER. I UNDERSTAND SAUDIS TOLD EGYPTIANS SOME TWO WEEKS AGO, AFTER ATHERTON VISIT, ABOUT OUR REQUEST. AT THAT TIME MODA PRIMIN SULTAN REPORTEDLY STATED THAT SAUDIS WOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE TO TERMINATE PROGRAM. IF EGYPTIANS WISHED TO DO SO, THAT WAS THEIR BUSINESS. BUT, SULTAN REPORTEDLY ASKED, WHAT WOULD BE AFFECT ON EGYPTIAN TRAINEES OF ACTION BY SADAT, AT USG BEHEST, TO REQUEST TERMINATION OF THE PROGRAM BEFORE COMPLETION. I KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MARWAN, WHO RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE FROM SULTAN, IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO TERMINATION ON GROUNDS IT WOULD BE BADLY RECEIVED BY EGYPTIAN MILITARY AND WOULD HURT SADAT'S

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REPUTATION AMONG ARMED FORCES.

3. I SUSPECT THAT, RECOGNIZING SENSITIVITY OF
TERMINATION ACTION VIS-A-VIS THEIR OWN OFFICERS, THE
EGYPTIANS HAVE AND WILL DO NOTHING ABOUT IT. INSTEAD
THEY PROBABLY HOPE THE PROBLEM WILL SOMEHOW GO
AWAY. IN MY JUDGMENT, IF IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL
THAT PROGRAM BE TERMINATED, ANOTHER APPROACH WILL HAVE
TO BE MADE HERE TO SADAT, MOBAREK, GAMASY OR FAHMY.
WITHOUT THIS, ISSUE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN LIMBO.

4. SUGGEST THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED JIDDA FOR ITS
INFO. ELTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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